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SOME
MEMOIRS
OF THE
LIFE

AND
Publick Employments
OF
Matthew Prior, Esq;

WITH
A COPY of his Last WILL
and TESTAMENT.

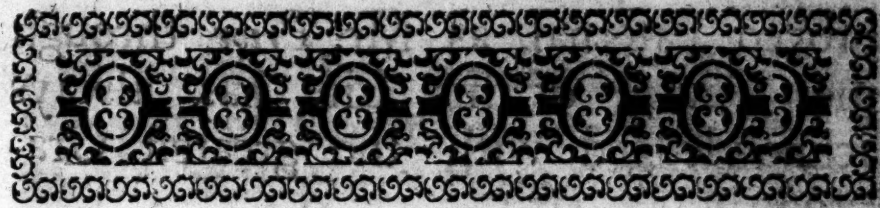
Drawn up by Himself in the Year
M DCC XXI.

L O N D O N :

Printed for E. CURLL, at the *Dial and Bible*, over-against
Catherine-Street in the *Strand*. MDCCXXII.

MEMOIR
OF THE
LIFE
AND
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENTS
OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
A COPY OF HIS LAST WILL
AND TESTAMENT
DRAWN UP BY HIMSELF IN THE YEAR
MDCCLXXI

LONDON:
Printed by G. Gutteridge, at the 'Star and Garter',
in the Strand. MDCCLXXII



SOME
MEMOIRS
OF THE
LIFE
AND
Publick Employments
OF
MATTHEW PRIOR, Esq;

Drawn up by himself in the Year 1720; and
Sent to the AUTHOR of the *Lives of the ENGLISH*
POETS †.

MATTHEW PRIOR, was
the Son of Mr. George Prior,
Citizen of London; who Dy-
ing while he was very Young,
left him to the Care of an Uncle, which
A 2 proved

† In Two Volumes Octavo. Printed for E. CURLL in
the Strand.

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proved Paternal, as Mr. Prior through the Course of his Life has always acknowledged with the greatest Gratitude.

HE was Bred at *Westminster-School*, where he endeavoured to obtain and increase the Noble Genius peculiar to that Place. He was thence removed to *St. John's-College*, in *Cambridge*; of which Society, soon after He had taken the Degree of Batchelour of Arts, he was made Fellow; and retains the same Honour to this Day. He wrote several Copies of Verses when very Young, as appears by the First, in his Printed Poems†. In the Reign of King *JAMES* the Second, jointly with Mr. *Mountague*, since Earl of *Halifax*, he wrote Remarks* upon Mr. *DRYDEN's Hind and Panther*.

U P O N

† Anno 1688.

* The *Hind* and the *Panther*, transferred to the Story of the *Country-Mouse*, and the *City-Mouse*. &c. Printed in the Year 1687.

UPON the Revolution, He was brought to Court by the late Earl of Dorset, that great Patron of all Polite Learning, by whom from his Infancy he was beloved and encouraged; and as he grew up to Manhood, had a great share in his Intimacy and Friendship. Under this Noble Lord's Patronage he first entered into Publick Business, and was made Secretary to Their Majesties King WILLIAM and Queen MARY, at the Congress at the Hague, in the Year 1690, the late Earl of Berkeley being Their Majesties Plenipotentiary there. He was thence appointed Secretary of the Embassy to the present Earl of Pembroke, the late Earl of Jersey, and Sir Joseph Williamson, Ambassadors at the PEACE of Reswick, where many Memorials relating to that Treaty were drawn up by Him: He was likewise Secretary to the Two succeeding Embassies in France; Those, of the late Earls of Portland and Jersey.

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HE was Secretary of State in the Kingdom of Ireland; then one of the *Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations*; and by her late Majesty made *One of the Commissioners of the Customs*, and her Majesty's Plenipotentiary-Minister in *France* in the Year 1711. So that going into Publick Business very Young, and having continued therein for Seven and Twenty Years, his *Poetry* (to use his own Words in his Preface to his Poems) *was only the Product of his leisure Hours, who had Business enough upon his Hands, and was only a Poet by Accident* †. In the Year 1720, He published his Works, by Subscription, in one Volume in Folio, and met with that Encouragement which, was due to his deserved Merit. But tho' in this Collection of his Poems he added several *New Pieces*, yet he omitted some very valuable *Old Ones*, particularly his *First Epistle to Fleetwood Shephard, Esq;* which

† Here Mr. PRIOR's Paper concluded.

of *MATTHEW PRIOR*, Esq; 7

which his great Modesty prevailed with him to withdraw, only upon there being in the Close of that Piece, an innocent Joke upon Mr. *Mountague*, late Earl of *Halifax*. For a like Reason, he Omitted that agreeable *Satire* upon the *Translators* of *OVID's Epistles*, and a *Satire* upon the *POETS*, in Imitation of the VIIth *Satire* of *JUVENAL*, on account of a few *Nipping Turns* upon Two Noblemen, lately deceased. An *ODE* in Imitation of the Second *ODE* of *HORACE*, written by Him in the Year 1692, is likewise Omitted, because he declared to have made some Use of that Piece in the Composing his *Carmen Sæculare*. Tho' it is rather to be presumed, this Omission was obtained by the persuasion of some Political-Friends; who thought the Revival of this *ODE* a Panegyrick too High for (a Prince above all Panegyrick) the late Immortal King *WILLIAM* of *Glorious Memory*. An Excellent *POEM*, to the Countess Dowager of *DEVONSHIRE*, upon a *PIECE* of *WISSIN's*, whereon
were

8 MEMOIRS of the LIFE

were all her GRANDSON'S Painted, (the last Performance of that Master, in his own Hand-writing, without taking a COPY of it) He gave near Thirty Years ago to his Friend ANTHONY HAMMOND, *Esq*; and to that Gentleman the Reader is now obliged for its first Publication. The Two Copies of Verses upon Lady KATHERINE HYDE, have been mistakenly applied by some Persons to another Hand; tho' whoever will in the least but impartially consider, they must allow, that the Easy Turn, and Epigrammatick Point, in those Performances, could be the Product of no other, than Mr. PRIOR's peculiar Pen; And it is hoped, that the Preservation of these PIECES, will be looked upon as an Act of strict Justice to his Memory.

SINCE the late Collection of his POEMS in Folio, Mr. PRIOR himself published Four POEMS, *viz.* I. The *Conversation*. A Tale. II. COLIN'S *Mistakes*. Written in Imitation of SPENSER'S Style.

MATTHEW PRIOR, Esq; 9

Mr. H. VERSES Spoke to the Lady
Henrietta-Cavendish Holles Harley, in the
Library of St. John's-College, Cambridge,
November the 9th, Anno Dom. 1719.

Prologue to the ORPHAN. Re-
presented by some of the Westminster-
Scholars, at Hickford's Dancing-Room
York-Buildings, the 2d of February,
1720. Spoken by the Lord DUPLIN.

THIS is an exact Account of all
Genuine Works of Mr. PRIOR,
hitherto published. As to the *Manu-
scripts* he has left behind him, the most
considerable, we are informed, is one
entitled, *Dialogues of the Dead*.

To attempt a Character of Mr. PRIOR
in this Place would be wholly super-
fluous, since the Publick will in a
short time be gratified in that Respect,
from the Eloquent Pen of Dr. Freind.
It shall suffice us therefore, only to
declare, what will be attested by all
B who

10 MEMOIRS of Mr. PRIOR'S

wh^o knew him, That Mr. PRIOR
endowed with all the Accomplishments
of a Polite Gentleman, and was perfectly
Sincere in all his Professions
Friendship.



A
True COPY
OF
Mr. *PRIOR*'s
LAST
WILL and TESTAMENT.

Drawn up by Himself.

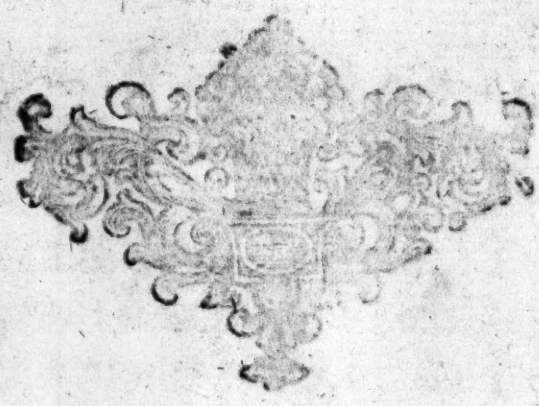


Printed in the Year M DCC XXII.

A
THE
COPY
OF
MAY RYOR
LAST

WILL and TESTAMENT.

Drawn up by Himself



Printed in the Year M DCC XXII.



A True COPY of

Mr. P R I O R's

LAST

WILL and TESTAMENT.



*E Registro Curie Prærogative
Cantuarien' Extract.*

I T has pleased ALMIGHTY
GOD, for some Years past, to
bless me, his most unworthy
Creature, with a greater
Share of Health, than I could have
expected from the Tenderness of my

[iv]

Native Constitution, or the Fatigues and Troubles of Life, which I have undergone; for this, and all other his Mercies, Hallowed be his Name, for Ever, and Ever. Let Men and Angels repeat the Sound, Hallowed be his Name! Now before Sickness of Body, or Infirmary of Age, prevent, or diminish the Force of my Understanding, or Memory, I make and declare this my Last Will and Testament.

I MATTHEW PRIOR, of the Parish of St. Margaret, Westminster, thanking the Right Honourable the Lord HARLEY for his eminent and continual Friendship to me, and trusting that he will have the same Concern for my Memory after Death, as he had for my Honour whilst alive, and that he will take the same Care of my Surviving Friends, hereafter mentioned, in this my Will, as he did of my own proper Interest; and having for many Years experienced the Faith, Honesty, and Ability, of Mr.

Adrian

Adrian Drift, my Secretary whilst I was in Publick Employments, and my Friend and Companion in Private Life; I intreat the said Lord HARLEY, and ordain the said *Adrian Drift*, to be the Executors of this my Will. And thus I give and bequeath unto EDWARD Lord HARLEY, and *Adrian Drift*, all my Goods, and Chattels, Plate, Jewels, Medals, and Debts, and all other my Personal Estate whatsoever; to them, I say, their Heirs, Executors, and Assigns, in trust only and for the Uses hereafter specified, and the Benefit of the Persons hereafter mentioned.

It is my Will, That I be Buried privately in *Westminster-Abbey*, and that after my Debts and Funeral Charges are paid, a Monument be erected to my Memory, whereon may be expressed the Publick Employments I have bore; the INSCRIPTION, I desire may be made by Dr. *Robert Freind*, and the *Busto* expressed in Marble by *Coriveaux*, placed on the Monument: For this last
piece

piece of *Humane Vanity*, I Will, that the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds be set aside.

To the College of St. *JOHN* the *Evangelist*, in *Cambridge*, I leave Such and so many of my Books, as shall be judged to amount unto the Value of Two Hundred Pounds: These Books, with my own *P. O. E. M. S.* in the greatest Paper, to be kept in the Library, together with the Books which I have already given. I likewise leave my own *PICTURE*, Painted by *Le Belle*, and that of my Friend and Patron *Edward* Earl of *Jersey*, by *Rigault*.

I leave to my Lord *HARLEY*, the *Busto* of *FLORA*, made by *Girardon*, and Six *Pictures* out of my Collection, Such as he shall chuse: The rest of my *Pictures*, *Medals*, *Drawings*, *Stamps*, and *Maps*, to be Appraised by Two Persons who may be thought to understand their Value, and my Lord *HARLEY* to have the Preference, in Case he pleases to purchase any Part, or Parcel thereof; and

and after his Pleasure therein specified, I Will, that the Residue be Sold. The *Picture* of Queen *Elizabeth*, by *Portus*, I leave to the Honourable and excellent Lady *Harriette Harley*, and my own *Picture* in Enamail to her dear Daughter *Margarette*.

ALL my *Manuscripts*, *Negotiations*, *Commissions*, and all *Papers* whatsoever, whether of my *Publick Employments*, or *Private Studies*, I leave to my Lord *HARLEY*, my Executor, or either of them, having first burned Such as may not be proper for any future Inspection.

WHEREAS the Estate of *Down-Hall*, in *Essex*, of which I am and stand at present Possessed, is at my Death to revert to my Lord *HARLEY*, and to his Heirs, according to the Purport and Intent of certain Writings, drawn up by Mr. *Oliver Martin*, of the *Middle-Temple*, I Declare, that the said Estate does, and ought accordingly to revert
to

to my Lord HARLEY, and his Heirs, least from any Want of Words, in those Writings, or from any Failure, or Expression omitted, in the Form of the Writings, the least Doubt or Inquietude may arise to my Lord HARLEY. I mention this, tho' at the same time I believe it to be superfluous.

I Will, and Desire, That the Sum of One Thousand Pounds, be set apart in favour, and to the Use of Mrs. *Elizabeth Cox*, and that an Annuity, or Rent-Charge, be purchased with the said Sum, to be paid by Half yearly Payments, to the said *Elizabeth Cox*, during her Natural Life; but I would have the said Thousand Pounds, *i. e.* the Annuity, to be purchased with that Sum, to be paid Solely to her Order, in Half yearly Payments, as aforesaid, and not to be in the Disposal, or at the Power of any Husband, which she may Marry: And as my Lord HARLEY will be juster towards all with whom he Deals, and kinder to my Friends, than
any

any Man whom I leave behind me, in the World, I beg that he will be pleased to grant to the said *Elizabeth Cox*, such Annuity, leaving the Sum to be determined by his Appointment, and Pleasure.

I leave to Mr. *Adrian Drift* the Sum of One Thousand Pounds, to be employed and disposed of, at his Discretion, hoping that his Industry, and Management will be Such, that he will not embezzle or decrease the Same.

I leave to Mrs. *Anne Durham*, the Sum of Three Hundred Pounds, to be paid within One Year after my Decease, and by her, to be employed for the Enlargement of her Stock, and the Support of that Trade, and Calling, wherein I have already placed her, and in which I wish her Prosperity.

I Remit to my dear Friend, and old Companion, *Richard Shelton*, Esq; all Bonds, Notes, or Obligations, by which he stands any way indebted to me: And I leave to his Son, *George Shelton*, the Sum of Three Hundred Pounds in Such manner, as that he may receive Fifty Pounds *per Annum*, for Six Years, in order to Maintain him, during that time, at the University; or to help him in any Trade, or Employment, as his Father may judge proper.

I leave to my well-beloved, and dear Cousin, *Katherine Harrison*, the Sum of One Hundred Pounds, with which She will please to buy Mourning.

I leave to my Servants, Each, one Year's Wages, and Mourning, and to *John Oeman*, or *Newman*, the Sum of Fifty Pounds, over and above Such Wages.

I likewise leave the Sum of Fifty Pounds, over and above Such Wages, to *Jane Ansloy*.

AND in Case this shall, as I reckon it will, amount to more than will pay and satisfy my Debts, and Legacies, already given, I leave the rest and residue to *Mr. Adrian Drift*, and *Mrs. Elizabeth Cox*, above-mentioned, to be equally divided between them.

THUS, wishing Health, Honour, and Happiness, to dear Lord HARLEY, and his Family ; and to all my Friends in general, *Peace on Earth, and Goodwill towards Men* ; I Recommend my Soul, and Body, to the Eternal and Ever-Blessed G O D, who gave me my Being :

Deus es instaura Plasma Tuum.

THIS Will, written with my own Hand, I Sign and Seal the Ninth of August, Anno Dom. 1721.

M. PRIOR.

Signed, Sealed, and Declared, to be the Last Will and Testament of Matthew Prior, in the Presence of us who saw him Seal, and Subscribe the Same,

Witness,

James Gibbs.

William Thomas.

J. Worlock.

PRobatum Londini Coram venerabili viro Berney Branthwaythe Legum Doctore Surrogato & Decimo Nono Die Mensis Septembris, Anno Dom. 1721. Framento Adriani Drift, Unius Execut' in dicto Testamento nominat' : Cui Commissa fuit Administratio omnium

& Singulorum; Bonorum Jur' &
 Creditor' dicti def'ti de bene &
 fideli, Administrando eadem ad
 Sancta Dei Evangelia Jurat':
 Reservata potent' Similem. Commem.
 faciendi Honor. Edwardo Domino
 Harley, alteri Executorum, & cum
 venerit eandem petitur.



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